



NEWS RELEASE

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ■ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT OFFICE ■ 435 MONTANO NE ■ ALBUQUERQUE NM 87107

Danita Burns ■ Public Affairs Specialist ■ 505.438.7453

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For Additional Information
Karen Davis, 505.287.7911, ext 3

Explore the Wonders of BLM's "Badlands" El Malpais National Conservation Area

ALBUQUERQUE – Come and explore the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) El Malpais National Conservation Area. It's a land of majestic sandstone arches, ancient lava flows, amazing petroglyphs, spectacular pueblo ruins and rustic homesteads. For 8 days during the months of May through August, the BLM Grants field station will host free interpretive hikes among such wonders as rock art panels and geological formations while teaching the history of the people and the land.

There are two different hikes that will highlight different aspects of the area—the Aldridge Petroglyph Hike and the Dittert Archeology Site & Armijo Canyon Hike. For all hikes, please meet at the BLM Ranger Station, 9 miles south of I-40 (exit 89) on NM 117. The schedule for the hikes is shown below.

May 13	9:00a – 2:00p	Aldridge Petroglyph
May 20	9:00a – 3:00p	Dittert Archeology Site and Armijo Canyon
June 10	9:00a – 2:00p	Aldridge Petroglyph
June 24	9:00a – 3:00p	Dittert Archeology Site and Armijo Canyon
July 8	9:00a – 2:00p	Aldridge Petroglyph
July 22	9:00a – 3:00p	Dittert Archeology Site and Armijo Canyon
Aug 5	9:00a – 2:00p	Aldridge Petroglyph
Aug 26	9:00a – 3:00p	Dittert Archeology Site and Armijo Canyon

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On these hikes, you will walk in the footsteps of the Anazsazi to Casamero, a Chacoan outlier, learning along the way how the local inhabitants survived in this harsh environment. See amazing rock art while discussing possible meanings of the symbols. Travel back to the days of the homesteader and listen to stories about the hardships they endured in their effort to settle in this unforgiving land.

Don't forget to bring two quarts of water, a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, rain gear, (yes, we're always optimistic) hiking shoes, and lunch. Please remember that these hikes may not be suitable for small children or pets.

For more information, please contact Karen Davis at 505.287.7911, extension 3 or (cell) 505.321-3843.

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